



Southeastern Region

by PATRICK M. O'BRIEN, Director,
and JOHN H. FOY, Agronomist

WITHOUT A DOUBT, bentgrass putting greens in Florida have been the biggest topic of the year. Playing the U.S. Amateur and the PGA championships in South Florida during August has brought this subject national attention. For the past ten years, a significant increase in the use of bentgrass, primarily for winter overseeding of hybrid bermudagrass greens, has had some success throughout Florida. Golfers who spend more time on their winter courses encouraged this change.

However, now a number of clubs are trying to maintain the bentgrass overseeding the entire growing season, rather than encouraging hybrid bermudagrass for the hot summer months. A handful of clubs even have pure bentgrass greens.

Agronomists and golfers are now debating the Florida bentgrass green issue, and with little consensus of opinion. In some cases the result for the golf superintendent has been headaches,

long hours, and poor quality putting greens. For the clubs, it has meant large expenditures of money. One thing is certain: bentgrass is a big gamble in Florida. The controversy will persist even though tremendous progress continues with the conditioning of hybrid bermudagrass putting greens.

The intense summer heat once again was a topic of concern in the Southeast. Because so many locations in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia had record high temperatures in August, bentgrass greens suffered, especially those in pockets of trees. Air and soil temperatures in those stagnated conditions are much higher than locations where air circulates. Even constructing new USGA putting greens will not help bentgrass live in this environment. Chain saw stocks should soar this winter.

Deep-tine aerifiers are now very popular machines for putting greens.

These aerifiers penetrate 12 to 14 inches into the soil, improving both soil drainage and turfgrass rooting, especially for clay-based putting greens. The deep-tine aerifier is another technological advance, but it is not a cure for a poorly constructed green.

Purple nutsedge had been a major problem until this summer. The new chemical Image is excellent for killing purple nutsedge in warm-season grasses. Superintendents are now hoping for a herbicide to control Virginia buttonweed, now the most difficult weed to control in the Southeast.

Technological advancements have indeed helped the Southeastern superintendent provide better turf for his course. As the challenge of growing a cool-season grass in a warm-season climate increases, the advancements in turf research will become even more valuable to the golf course superintendent.

A season of progress in the Mid-Continent Region with triplex mowing.





(Left top) Efficient use of water remains the key issue "Out West"!

(Left bottom) New equipment for deep cultivation is on the market in the Southeast and across the country.

(Below) Black layer was a topic of controversy across the country.



Mid-Continent Region

by JAMES F. MOORE, Director

IT HAS BEEN another fruitful and educational year in the 10 states that make up the Mid-Continent Region. It has been a year of controversy with the infamous "black plague," a year of progress with new equipment and products rapidly making their way onto the courses, and a year of promise thanks to the researchers whose hard work guarantees the future of the game of golf as well as the turfgrass industry.

I am happy to report that superintendents in this region seem to have a good

handle on the black layer. Few claim to have all the answers to the cause of the problem, but they do realize that the solution is action. They are managing water more closely and are cranking up the aerifiers at the first sign of anaerobic conditions.

Remember when there were no more than two or three "household names" when it came to aerifiers, mowers, and chemicals? Superintendents have demanded better ways to do things, and

the producers have come through. We can now choose from a wide assortment of equipment and an expanding list of highly advanced chemicals. At least three new aerifiers and four new lightweight fairway mowers have shown up on courses in the Mid-Continent Region this year.

The most difficult but at the same time rewarding part of traveling the Mid-Continent Region is the diversity of challenges facing turf managers. Out